



Arizona's Military Family Relief Fund Assists Family of Fallen Soldier

Arizona Department of Veterans' Services Director Joey Strickland presents the parents of Army Corporal Charles P. Gaffney Jr. with a \$5,000 check from the Arizona Military Family Relief Fund to assist the family in traveling to Arlington National Cemetery for the funeral of their son.

Corporal Gaffney, assigned to Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) was killed when his combat outpost came under enemy attack in Patkia, Afghanistan on December 24, 2008.

"This fund allows the people of Arizona to reach out to those families who have lost a loved one or whose loved ones are wounded in action in our current wars," said Director Strickland.

The Military Family Relief Fund was created by the Arizona Legislature to financially assist the families of military members who are killed, wounded in action or become seriously ill in a combat zone.

Corporal Gaffney, a 42 year old father of two from Tucson, reentered the Army in August of 2006. He told friends he was "doing it for the women of Afghanistan" so they could have the same rights as American women. Corporal Gaffney originally joined the Army in the mid-1980s and spent six years in service, mostly in Germany. Prior to being assigned to Afghanistan, Corporal Gaffney spent a year in Iraq. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.